

City of Tumwater
Barnes Lake Management District

Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2007

6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Public Outreach Meeting
Tumwater United Methodist Church
1401 Lake Park Drive
Tumwater, WA 98501

I. Call to order

Chair Peterson called to order the special public outreach meeting of the Barnes Lake Steering Committee (BLMD-SC) at 6:30 p.m. on September 12, 2007 at the Tumwater United Methodist Church.

II. Roll call

The following Steering Committee members were present: Kathy Peterson, Chair, Ron Lumaguip, Bob Hayes, Bill Baxter, Rosemary Walsh, Gary Bodeutsch, Judith Loft, John Swander and Staff Representative Smith. Northwest Aquatic Eco-Systems (NWA), Doug Dorling was present, as well as Chuck Denney, City of Tumwater Parks Director.

The following BLMD members were present: Norene Jenkins, Gwen Williams, Fred & Kathy Hamilton, Jim Peterson, Dana Day, Raul Sanchez, Chuck Nordstrom, Ken Thompson, Fay Conroy, Ron Langley, Tom Oliva and Ed Loft.

III. Open Issues

a) Vegetation Management Update

Doug Dorling, principal with NWA, attended the meeting to provide an update of treatment activities to the membership and answer questions relating to the remaining activities for the year. Doug discussed the activities of the initial treatments, stating that the application differed from what was originally planned. He also reviewed the treatment areas from aerial photographs of the lake that were taken during a flight purchased by NWA. The initial plan called for treatment of all areas outside of the conservancy zones. Field assessments conducted by NWA suggested that this would cause a major uplift of the bottom sediments, and a revised plan would need to be considered. The revised treatment concept would be to test 3 small plots with varying chemical concentrations. Just prior to the treatments, NWA reassessed lake conditions and determined that the revised treatment plan would not be sufficient to address LMD member concerns relating to equity of treatment locations, and revised the plan to provide shoreline properties with access to the main water body to

enhance recreational access. At each step, NWA consulted with Ecology and City staff for approval of the treatment plan.

In mid-July, NWA applied the first treatment of herbicides in swaths up to 20' in width from shoreline properties to the lake's open water. Some paths connected to others, with the ultimate goal of providing each property with access to the open water. A follow-up treatment during the first weeks of September expanded upon these pathways, as well as increasing the perimeter of open water. A third application is possible within the next two weeks, following the same protocols as the initial applications, but is dependent upon stage of plant growth and weather.

All treatments have been applied conservatively in hopes of forcing the vegetation to die back without causing an uplift of the root systems that would be expected to occur on the lake. Results of the treatment activities will not be fully noted until later in the season, as uplifts can take up to 4 months after treatments to occur.

Members along Daisy Lane are concerned that they did not receive any treatments. NWA recalled that the water levels in that vicinity are too shallow and were concerned that treatments in that area will cause an uplift of sediments and root systems. An approach was discussed to alleviate member concerns. NWA stated that patience is ultimately needed from all lake members, as this will be a long process – especially given the high risk of uplift and excessive costs for removal. As access to the lake shoreline for the heavy equipment needed to remove the debris is extremely limited, the ultimate goal is to provide treatments in a manner that will reduce the possibility for uplift.

NWA reported on the equipment currently being used. Homeowner Dana Day stated that if NWA would prefer to use the standard equipment on Barnes Lake, they may be able to access the lake from their property. Dorling stated that he would follow up with Ms. Day over the next week or so to evaluate the access option.

Dorling reaffirmed to the residents that the vegetative uplift and associated issues (increased odors, insects, and unsightly views) is a primary concern for NWA and that they are taking every precaution to prevent this from happening.

Dorling stated that the low water levels are hampering treatment efforts in the Daisy Lane neighborhood, and will make it a priority to address this area of the lake next spring, when water levels are higher.

NWA has reported that they are in constant communication with Ecology and has received approvals on all changes to the permit. A question was raised relating to lake access and the possibility of constructing a boat ramp of sorts. Doug stated that they would definitely be open to that idea. Smith stated that any constructed object placed into the lake would require additional permits from both the City and the WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife.

Chair Peterson requested that Smith post the aerial photographs, taken by Smith during a flight over the lake purchased by NWA, to the Barnes Lake website.

b) Parks & Recreation Plan Update

City of Tumwater Parks and Recreation Director, Chuck Denney, provided the membership with a summary of the actions taken by the City to date on the adoption of the Parks Plan Update. Director Denney stated that while he is at the meeting as

representative of Tumwater, he also shares interest in the lake as a member of the Lake Management District.

Director Denney provided an itemized list to the membership denoting all instances where Barnes Lake is mentioned in the draft plan. Member Tom Oliva pointed out that there was a reference to public restrooms that was missing from the list.

Denney reviewed the most feasible options for Barnes Lake, although acknowledging that none of these items have been formally adopted by the City Council. Denney stated that during the upcoming public hearing on the issue, he would recommend the following changes pertaining to Barnes Lake:

- Any reference to an active recreation park (basketball, tennis, restrooms, etc.) be stricken from the final plan, leaving only the proposed Interpretive Park;
- The proposed site at the Michael T. Simmons School be stricken from the plan;
- The letters from the LMD Steering Committee be added to Appendix F "Public Opinion."

Director Denney stated that he would keep the Steering Committee members informed of upcoming meetings and opportunities for comment.

c) **Noxious and Invasive Weeds Presentation**

Staff Rep Smith prepared a presentation on noxious and invasive weeds in the Barnes Lake area. Since time was short, Smith skipped the majority of the presentation dealing with associated impacts of the related weed species, and discussed weed species that are either found at Barnes Lake or have the potential to be found at the lake. Smith provided copies of brochures and fact sheets on many varieties of weeds commonly associated with aquatic ecosystems. The presentation and a list of resources relating to noxious and invasive weeds would be posted to the Barnes Lake website. LMD members were encouraged to report any Class A, B, or C noxious weeds, including Purple Loosestrife, Reed Canary Grass, or Yellow Flag Iris, so that plans could be made to control infestations.

IV. Adjournment

Chair Peterson expressed appreciation to the presenters and adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m. The next steering committee meeting will be held on October 10, 2007, at the Tumwater City Hall.

Minutes submitted by: Dan Smith, Staff Representative

Minutes approved by: Barnes Lake Management District Steering Committee